

**Bonhomme, Penny**

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**From:** Mandy Dews [mandy.dews@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, March 17, 2012 1:00 PM

**To:** PHC Testimony

**Cc:** Celeste Baranowski CDHA email

**Subject:** Support HB 5541

Dear Public Health Committee,

Thank you for devoting time to this very important legislative effort, HB 5541, An Act Concerning Services Provided by Dental Professionals and Certification for Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners.

I am a dental hygiene student and am in support of the ADHP role for multiple reasons. I feel with the ADHP role, we can help eliminate some of the access to care challenges our society faces on a daily bases. The ADHP can collaborate with other dental professionals to help meet the needs of children, seniors, adults with disabilities, and so-on, who otherwise would not get the care they need and deserve. This role is not proposed to replace any member of the dental team, but to make the team a stronger unit.

I hope you were able to view the unbiased exploration of the issues by the U.S.

Subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing regarding the dental health care crisis and the need to increase access to care.

The curriculum is well developed and more than adequate. It is difficult to keep dentists in public health settings due to the lower salaries. The proposal provides for competency exams, maintenance of continuing education and certification. The ADHP is the more comprehensive choice and will create wider access and utilization for health care.

In participating in community rotations for the dental hygiene program at Fones, it is clear that there is a need for improved access to care just in the few communities our school has been able to reach.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your time.

Please support the role of ADHP.

Sincerely,

Mandy Dews, SDH

University of Bridgeport - Fones School of Dental Hygiene